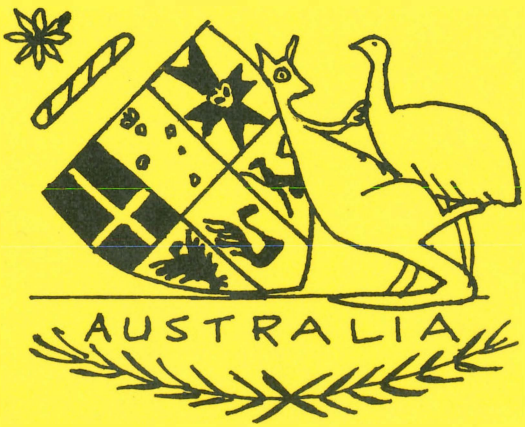
The Social Security Revue
Discussion Paper No.13

TOWARDS A PROTOCOL FOR DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN OLD FASHIONED ROOTERS PENSIONERS AND BORN AGAIN FUCKERS BENEFICIARIES

A study by
John Tomlinson and Penny Harrington



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Towards a Protocol for Distinguishing between Old Fashioned Rooters Pensioners and Born-Again Fuckers Beneficiaries

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Appendix I

Preface

This project was made possible through a grant of $10 paid by the Prime Monster, Mr Bob Mawk, out of some of Mr Cheating's left-over travel funds. The researchers were drunk most of the time they were supposed to be engaged on this consultancy. However, they were eminently qualified to carry out this research, having themselves never experienced poverty. Unlike previous papers released by the Revue this publication is not a discussion paper, rather it is to be accepted unthinkingly by all bureaucrats, political staffers and ministers.

Allowance has been made for the dimwits on little Johnny Coward's front bench to either ignore it or to find a good reason to rigorously but mindlessly oppose it. In order to facilitate the Opposition's task a glossary of terms of abuse relevant to welfare types, e.g. dole bludger, is to be found at page 502. A draft press statement to be signed by Andrew Weecock, condemning this report out of hand is appended at page 506.

The Mawk Government in accepting this report prior to publication, thanked the Revue for their fine effort in producing the report but noted with regret that it was obviously inspired by Marxist-Leninist-Castroist-Sandinistan-Gorbochevian aligned mem-

bers of that faction of the Mighty Labor Party called the socialist left.

Mr Mawk said, "Whilst I accept that the proposals contained therein would actually solve the problems of poverty, treat everyone in need equitably, and would be of use to less affluent Australians generally - the scheme appealed to neither Sir Peter Marbles nor Muppet Roodock so it is not a goer - sorry."

As Chairperson of the Revue, I wish to thank Mr Mawk for his timely comments.

This report has also been read to Lord Bigg-Jokey, and his response was - "Don't you worry about that, my girl."

Retsina Crass

Summary of Recriminations

1. There is a clear need to maintain both the Born-Again Fuckers Benefit and the Old Fashioned Rooters Pension.

2. Both the Born-Again Fuckers Benefit and the Old Fashioned Rooters Pension should be paid at different rates. The Born-Again Fuckers Benefit should be paid at 50 cents a week less than the Old Fashioned Rooters Pension in order that the Government can be clearly seen to favour Old Fashioned Rooters above Born-Again Fuckers.

3. There should be a further discrimination made between the Old Fashioned Rooters Pension and the Born-Again Fuckers Benefit recipients in relation to earned income. Old Fashioned Rooters Pensioners should only lose 49 cents in each dollar earned whereas Born-Again Fuckers Beneficiaries should have their Benefit reduced by 50 cents in each dollar earned.

4. Identical fringe benefits should be made available to both Born-Again Fuckers Beneficiaries and Old Fashioned Rooters Pensioners but, and very importantly, **separate** conditions applying to the granting of such fringe benefits must be introduced.

5. The research consultants working on this project were themselves unable consistently to distinguish between the financial, social, employment, sexual and other needs of Born-Again Fuckers and Old Fashioned Rooters. They therefore suggest that although early processing of application forms could be handled by Clerks in the range Classes 1 to 7, and counselling should be undertaken by social workers, no-one unless based in Central Office and holding the range of Class 8 to Class 11 be allowed to engage in the next stage of processing claims. **All** final determinations, such as deferment, suspension, grant or rejection must be made by Division 1 Officers, or even more senior personnel.

6. Appeals against decisions should, after a cursory investigation, be left to sit around the office until the day of Appeal Tribunal hearings, when as many as possible should be conceded. This will discourage frivolous appeals and will provide the maximum drain of resources on those organisations which encourage clients to appeal against Departmental rulings.

7. The only further appeal under this legislation should be direct to the High Court - which should stop most of the little fuckers in their tracks.

8. Of great interest to this Revue was the fact that the researchers were unable to distinguish between Born-Again Fuckers Beneficiaries and Old Fashioned Rooters Pensioners on any of 20 social indices. It is therefore crucial, if the Government is not to be forced into the ridiculous position of paying people identical payments just because they happen to be in identical financial need, that this research program be expanded. The researchers have indicated they are prepared to co-ordinate the work of the improved Research Unit, provided their consultancy fee is raised to the standard $847.42 a day.

9. Each of the research consultants has a couple of little mates who would be available to take part in the expanded project. It is recommended that normal procedures dealing with the employment of consultants be foregone in this instance.

Final Recommendation

It is essential that the expanded consultancy group, as well as working to clarify the distinguishing features of Born-Again Fuckers and Old Fashioned Rooters, confront head on the outrageous suggestion put forward by the Festival of Right that a Guaranteed Minimum Sex scheme be installed for all Australians. This idea would be as ridiculous as introducing a Guaranteed Minimum Income which paid **all** Australians in need a sufficient payment to ensure a basic standard of living.

Background to the Study

The idea of investigating the feasibility of developing a protocol to distinguish between Born-Again Fuckers Beneficiaries and Old Fashioned Rooters Pensioners was conceived at a meeting between representatives of a number of government departments and of the non-government welfare sector.

The Minister for Social Sexuality, Bryan Wye, called attention to the fact that since the Lord Bigg-Jokey's recommendation that "no sex is safe sex", Australia's image as a 'Sexy Country' was becoming detumescent. The purpose of the study, therefore, is to restore the public's alleged flagging interest in sex *per se* ; while at the same time blurring the issues so that the information provided to advocacy groups, service users and providers, policy makers, administrators and funding bodies, is not reliable as a tool for lobbying the legislative and administrative arms of government.

The need for this study was underlined by the decision of Lord Bigg-Jokey's Government to ban condom vending machines in Queensland. The reason for the ban is said to stem from an unfortunate incident which occurred when Lord Bigg-Jokey was visiting New South Wales. It appears he attempted to fit a condom before inserting 40¢ in the machine.

Characteristics of Respondents

AGE: The researchers confidently expected age to be a factor which would facilitate distinction between Old Fashioned Rooters and Born-Again Fuckers. And while it is true to say that the majority of Old Fashioned Rooters were older than the majority of Born-Again Fuckers, some notably older Born-Again Fuckers brought the mean age of that group up to 39.5 while the mean age of Old Fashioned Rooters was 41.5. The median age for Born-Again Fuckers was 27 and for Old Fashioned Rooters 44. The age range for Born-Again Fuckers was 19-92 and for Old Fashioned Rooters 12.5-69.

It is recommended that the expanded research program carefully monitor the median age and age range of participants, as these factors could be significant.

CAPACITY TO CHANGE: A question was put to respondents which was designed to test their capacity to change their mind in the face of evidence. Your researchers, gentle reader, were astonished to note that 92% of Born-Again Fuckers and 89% of Old Fashioned Rooters were quite unable to change their mind in the face of overwhelming evidence. However, further investigation revealed

that a great many of the respondents (both Born-Again Fuckers and Old Fashioned Rooters) were members of the Festival of Night, New Blight and Bruce Ruxton RSLers, and it is believed that this accounts for the extremely biased result.

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION: The participants of the current survey lived in three different locations: Bondi Beach (in an area bounded by Bondi Road, Old South Head Road, Murriverie Road and the ocean); Canberra and Lightning Ridge.

It is recommend that the expanded research program broaden its scope geographically to include: Caloundra (because one of the researcher's mums lives there); Rakaia, New Zealand, during the salmon run; interesting tourist resorts on the Great Barrier Reef and Kakadu; Adaminaby (or Cooma at a pinch); Jindabyne, Thredbo, Charlottes Pass (winter survey only). The researchers will also need regular holidays during the next three years of the Revue.

HEALTH: In general both groups enjoyed rude good health: Born-Again Fuckers showing a slightly greater propensity to suffer from ulcers, arthritis, and alopecia; whilst the Old Fashioned Rooters were more likely to suffer from flatulence, heart conditions of a mild to moderate nature, and gout. But not in significant numbers.

73% of both groups had their own teeth; and most (71% of Old Fashioned Rooters and 72% of Born-Again Fuckers) had their own hair. Only one woman (a Born-Again Fucker) was completely bald but it was proved to the satisfaction of the researchers that this condition was not related to her Born-Again Fucker status, although the extensive tests conducted in order to ascertain this fact caused one of the researchers to pull her own hair out.

35% of Old Fashioned Rooters and 37% of Born-Again Fuckers admitted to having suffered from sexually transmitted diseases: mainly thrush and other minor irritations. We only have their word for this, but as these figures reflect percentages in the total adult population in Australia, and reinforce the researchers' own experience, these results are taken as given.

It is recommended that the expanded research program investigate the matter of sexually transmitted diseases requiring participants to undergo such further tests as determined by the researchers.

MARITAL STATUS/PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS: The following table shows the marital status/personal relationships of the respondents:

	Born Again Fuckers	Old Fashioned Rooters
Married once	21%	18%
Married more than once	11%	12%
De facto relationship	31%	26%
Single (married less than once)	18%	21%
Homosexual	9%	10%
Other	10%	13%

Time did not permit a full investigation of the "other" category in the current study but one of the researchers is keen to carry out an in-depth study of the people (curiously all redheads) in this group. He is also displaying a curious interest in Born-Again Fuckers and Old Fashioned Rooters who may be involved with ducks or sheepdogs.

PREFERRED METHOD OF CONTRACEPTION: 79% of Born-Again Fuckers and 78.5% of Old Fashioned Rooters had at some time used condoms. Many respondents looked back on such periods of their lives with a sense of nostalgia. Some became all misty-eyed as they spoke about such times. (Your researchers, gentle reader, ever alert to the opportunity of turning a fast buck have decided to set up a second hand condom shop in the precincts of the New Parliament House. The only product which will be sold from the premises will be pre-loved condoms. The shop will be called INCENTIVATION after a phrase coined by one of the respondents.)

Findings in relation to sexuality, sexual needs and practices of respondents

In line with most consultants' firm determination to avoid addressing the central issue, we ignored this question as much as possible. Besides, one of the researcher's mums and the Premier of Queensland think that any discussion of sex is not nice.

Policy Considerations

SEX LED RECOVERY - BALANCE OF PAYMENT CONSIDERATIONS:

Whilst Australia has managed to maintain a trading surplus for a number of years, invisibles have frequently led to a balance of payments deficit. Apart from voyeurs and flashers, most Born-Again Fuckers and Old Fashioned Rooters activities are unseen by our major trading partners. The researchers therefore consider that anything which encourages such activities will help balance the invisibles deficit.

The "no sex being the only safe sex" dogma undermines the whole *raison d'etre* of the benefit and pension system. In order to counter this outrageous attack on our economy the Government will need to get solidly behind the platform of the Family Party which clearly affirms the intimate nature of family life in their slogan "The family that lays together stays together".

SUBSIDIES AND THE ADVERTISING INDUSTRY:

Distressing references are constantly made in the press, on radio and television, even in polite conversation, to "the drain on the public purse", "the burden to the tax payer", and generally to the iniquitous nature of pensions and especially

benefits. Such assertions clearly recognise that all subsidies most properly belong with the rich - after all, the poor would just spend the money on their kids rather than investing it.

A very clear distinction is made, of course, between pensions and benefits - there being an aura of entitlement attached to pensions. We believe it is essential to clearly establish the differences between them otherwise there is the ever present danger that the Government would have to admit that there are no differences between Born-Again Fuckers and Old Fashioned Rooters. This would necessitate the merging of both payments and a Guaranteed Minimum Sex scheme would need to be introduced forthwith.

If the expanded research program validates these findings it will be necessary, before any policy can be implemented, to devise ways of improving the independent image of Born-Again Fuckers in the minds of the public at large. To this end we recommend that an advertising campaign be devised by Filup Madams and Co, based on the theme "a fuck a day keeps researchers in pay" to accentuate the distinctions presently attributed to Born-Again Fuckers and Old Fashioned Rooters.

SOCIAL COST OF GUARANTEED MINIMUM SEX SCHEME:

Unless sufficient resources are put into research programs to ascertain the distinctions which may exist between Born-Again Fuckers and Old Fashioned Rooters the Government will come under increasing pressure to implement a Guaranteed Minimum Sex scheme.

This problem will be exacerbated by the fact that a Guaranteed Minimum Sex scheme would be efficient, economically rational, universal, not expensive, and electorally popular. It would therefore be necessary to deflect the public's attention. Perhaps Filup Madams could be employed to initiate a television campaign encouraging all Australians in inland towns with populations of less than 1,000 to apply for tax exempt status for their fund-raising drive for their town's 12 metre challenge in San Diego. The research team is keen on this idea and has taken a particular interest in the Cunnamulla entry.

The alternative would be for the Government to kill the idea of Guaranteed Minimum Sex scheme in the usual way governments terminate progressive policies which they do not wish to implement: namely, to initiate a large scale pilot program in Queensland and let the Premier emasculate it.

Conclusions

The essential conclusion forced upon the researchers who conducted this inquiry is that Born-Again Fuckers and Old Fashioned Rooters are, to the inexperienced, virtually impossible to tell apart.

We have a sense of *deja vu* when we recall the introduction in 1973 of Supporting Mothers Benefit (later to become the Supporting Parents Benefit) and the Widows Pension, which has been around since the 1940s. On virtually all social indices, financial need, custody of children, separation from spouse, etc, they were identical to the untrained eye and even to some professional social workers. But the Whitlam Government and later the Fraser Government had the fortitude to stand against such evidence of similarity. They were to some extent encouraged to maintain such ideological resolve by an ill-informed public who had the erroneous belief that there existed some considerable differences between Supporting Mothers and Widows Pensioners.

It is our fear that the existing pragmatic Mawk Government will capitulate in the face of rational economic argument and fail to maintain the distinction between the Born-Again Fuckers Beneficiaries and the Old Fashioned Rooters

Pensioners. If this were to happen there would be no alternative but to amalgamate both programs and introduce a universal Guaranteed Minimum Sex scheme.

This would result in an unmitigated social disaster and would in the end undermine the entire complex categorical social welfare system. No longer would we have the safety net of various welfare payments which has for decades provided the poor with the opportunity to fall through it. No longer would the artificial divisions created between the various categories of beneficiaries and pensioners exist, which have for so long been admired by the poor and from which the multitude of welfare agencies have benefited.

In line with its Guaranteed Minimum Sex scheme, the Government would have to introduce a Guaranteed Minimum Income and thus amalgamate the confusing array of payments which the welfare agencies and senior bureaucrats have for so long fought to maintain. Conservationists and historians would rightly be repulsed by such developments. It would result in a total revolution in thinking.

For the first time we would have a system of welfare assistance which was equitable and understood by the average person in the street or the country lane. It would mean that everyone in

this country whose income necessitated their receiving some help from the Government would automatically receive what they were entitled to. It would put an end to duplication, confusion and ad hocary. Inequality, confusion and petty-minded meanness, which are the hallmark of the existing welfare system and on which many a brilliant career in social welfare administration has been made, would disappear.

This would leave those aspiring to make money out of poverty, by becoming social welfare supercrats, without a career structure. It could even create employment problems for social welfare consultants. We urge the Government to be firm in their resolve to preserve the existing system. We suggest they even use formalin, if necessary.

Appendix 1

During the extensive consultations carried out by the researchers, it became obvious that there were some strongly held feelings about the importance of maintaining the distinction between Old Fashioned Rooter Pensioners and Born-Again Fucker Beneficiaries. We quote one letter by way of example:

13 Misadventure Avenue
Toorak
1.4.87.

Dear Sir/Madam

Since I was a lad, I have taken a great interest in both fucking and rooting. I was deeply concerned to hear the government was contemplating removing all distinctions between them.

My cousin, Uri Gella, has been known to bend forks and spoons when annoyed. I should warn you that I have far greater powers and if the government were to move to introduce Guaranteed Minimum Sex, I shall bend the flagpole of the new Parliament House during the opening ceremony.

Yours determinedly,

(Signed)
Goolie Yeller

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